

1988. Only 2 years later, he fulfilled his dream of becoming a police officer when he joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Ortiz's strict work ethic and dedication quickly made him a well-respected member of the Department and earned him a position with the elite antigang unit at the Lakewood Station. Although this was a formidable task with great responsibilities, he knew that in this capacity he could truly make a difference in the community and help at-risk youth. Deputy Ortiz did just that.

Jerry Ortiz was an important part of the Sheriff's Department family. He was well known for his sense of humor, positive attitude, and athleticism on the Department boxing team. Over his 15-year career, he became an integral part of the fight against gang crime in the area and went above and beyond to protect the innocent citizens caught in the unfortunate gang violence in their communities. Days before his tragic murder, Deputy Ortiz received word that he was being promoted to detective.

All who knew him said that he loved his job but that he was first and foremost a family man. Ortiz spent most of his free time with his two sons, Jeremy, 16, and Jacob, 6. He was a sports fan and enjoyed sharing this passion with his sons. Only three weeks before his death, Jerry Ortiz married his wife, Chela, and those close to him say he was happier than ever.

I am truly saddened to lose this remarkable public servant. Deputy Jerry Ortiz died doing what he loved—providing protection for his community. He was a leader, an inspiring mentor, a hero, and a wonderful father and husband. We will always be grateful for Deputy Ortiz's heroic service to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the community that he so bravely served.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

Last year, a man was arrested after he and another suspect yelled derogatory insults and hate speech toward a group of five lesbian women and one transgender man. While one of the men later fled the scene, the other continued harassing the group and subsequently physically attacked them. Some of the victims sustained injuries including a broken nose, black eyes, and injuries around the head and face.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend

them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I regret that I was unable to be present and cast votes the week of June 27. My mother, Marcia Lieberman, passed away on June 27 and her funeral was June 28, and I observed a period of mourning in Connecticut for the remainder of that week. While, as I stated to Senator REID, I would have returned to the Capitol and voted had my vote been determinative of the outcome, that did not become an issue regarding votes that week. Before I address the various pieces of legislation that the Senate considered during my absence, I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues and their staffs for their acts of kindness and words of sympathy during this difficult time for me and my family.

I have set forth below for the RECORD, for the information of my constituents, my positions on the legislation and key amendments considered the week of June 27.

Had I been present for vote on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, I would have voted yes.

The bill is far from perfect; indeed, it does next to nothing to address the challenge of climate change and leaves us much work still to do in creating the kind of robust and diverse fuel mix for our cars and trucks needed to provide America with true energy security.

What the bill does do, however, to stimulate the development and use of technologies that can help us address these challenges—or at least to get a start—justifies supporting it.

I was disappointed that when Senator MCCAIN and I offered the Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act as an amendment to bill, the Senate turned down the opportunity to adopt a truly comprehensive program to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions using a market system. My disappointment was tempered, however, when the Senate adopted a bipartisan resolution, which Senator MCCAIN and I cosponsored with Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN and several others calling for a mandatory market-based emissions reduction program for greenhouse gases. I am hopeful that over time the Senate will come to see that the legislation that Senator MCCAIN and I have been pushing for provides just the right vehicle for producing the legislation called for in the resolution.

At the same time, I believe that the bill will help nudge our energy system towards a cleaner, more efficient future. In addition to including a renewable portfolio standard for electric utilities, the bill includes a range of in-

centives and other support for businesses and consumers to develop and use clean technologies and clean fuels in their businesses and homes and on our highways.

Finally, I appreciate the fact that the bill—for the most part—does not include provisions that would weaken environmental protections for our air, water and land that, in the past, some have mistakenly believed to be necessary to advance energy policy.

On Thursday, June 29, the Senate voted on H.R. 2361, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Below are comments on the amendments that were offered and the vote on final passage of the bill.

I would have voted "nay" on the motion to waive the Budget Act with regard to Senator COBURN's amendment No. 1019. Combating diabetes and alcohol and substance abuse in Indian country must continue to be a priority for Congress, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Health and Human Services. It is also important that we continue to support Federal land acquisition programs that preserve the environment in its natural state. I believe that the Appropriations Committee has looked at these programs and made difficult but sound decisions about the funding levels for both of them, and therefore oppose the motion. I also note that I would have voted for Senator DORGAN's subsequent amendment No. 1025.

I would have voted for Senator COBURN's amendment No. 1003 because this amendment and similar sunshine laws would make it easier for Americans to understand how and what the Federal Government does on their behalf. By requiring that all limitations, earmarks, and directives be explicitly stated in the conference report, this amendment would have forced Congress to do a better job explaining to the American people where their tax dollars are being spent.

While I preferred Senator BOXER's amendment No. 1023, I would have voted for Senator BURNS's amendment No. 1068 because it at least ensures that the Environmental Protection Agency will undertake the specific tasks of reviewing this very serious public health issue and reporting its findings to Congress. The amendment also confirms the EPA's rulemaking process, which I believe should be a necessary prerequisite before any human pesticide testing should be allowed to continue. I look forward to reviewing the EPA's final recommendations, and after doing so, will be able to make a decision as to whether any human pesticide testing should be allowed.

In the meantime, I strongly support the moratorium imposed by Senator BOXER's amendment on all pesticide testing involving humans and the use of such studies until the EPA conducts and completes what I expect to be a thorough investigative and rulemaking process that ensures the safety of all